What Made USA Great?

by Dr. Suhento Liauw
translated by Mrs. Krista Ang

THE EMERGENCE OF DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM

In 1998, Indonesian people experienced what can be called as euphoria for democracy. At that time, every newspaper reported each day everything to do with democracy while hundreds of university students demonstrated in front of the People's Representative Council's Building. The word democracy itself stemmed from two Greek words: "demos" which means *people* and "kratos" which means *rule*. So the word democracy should mean that the people rule or government by the people (Worldbook Dictionary, Thorndike Benhard).

In reality, democracy is not a new concept but an old one. However, the Indonesian people had only learned it in 1998 because the late Mr. Soeharto had governed the people for more than 30 years under his dictatorship style. If we look back to the world history, Baron de Montesquieu (1689-1755), a French social commentator and a political thinker who lived during the Era of Enlightenment, introduced the concept of *trias politica*. In this concept, he divided the governmental powers into two types, namely the sovereign and administrative. He further divided the administrative power into executive, legislative, and judicial. He stated that these powers should be separate from and independent on each other so that the influence of any one power would not be able to exceed that of the other two, either singly or in combination. This concept was radical because it completely eliminated the three Estates structure of the French Monarchy: the clergy, the aristocracy, and the people at large represented by the Estates-General, thereby erasing the last vestige of a feudalistic structure (Wikipedia).

United States of America (USA) is the first country to practice the democratic government system in 1776 by using federation system since its independence from England on July 4, 1776. The First US President, George Washington, was a born-again Christian. He came from Episcopal Church, but later repented and was baptized again into a Baptist Church. He gave example by not accepting unlimited time of presidency. USA became a democratic country which was free and regarded human rights with high esteem. This fact was strengthened by the elimination of slavery by Abraham Lincoln in 1865.

European countries were so stung by American democratic system that their queens and kings one by one let their power be diminished by accepting constitutional monarchy, in which king and queen serve only as a symbol. Only the French people acted brutally toward Louis XVI.

USA is the first country on earth which use democratic system as its government system and also the first country which use the federation system. Both systems are the best ones for human beings on earth.

THE INVENTOR OF DEMOCRACY

Originally, the Anabaptists were the first inventor of democratic system instead of Montesquieu, since it was recorded that Anabaptists who ran away from persecution in Europe came to America, the new continent found by Columbus, and became its first citizens. After two months on the sea, they landed at what is now called the Harbor of Provincetown on November 19, 1620. Before they went ashore, one by one they made an oath and signed an agreement that they all would obey the law that they would make together. Thus, they had started the first democratic society on earth, sixty nine years before Montesquieu was born. This agreement was called *The Mayflower Compact*.

Under the leadership of Captain John Smith, they then moved to Plymouth. On December 25, they tried to construct a building that they called *common house*. At first, they lived in fear of the *Indians*. During the first winter, half of their number died and at the end of it, they found out that the Indians were actually friendly. The Indians taught them how to catch fish and dry it (dried or salted fish) and also to farm. They lived in harmony with the Indians. At their first autumn, they succeeded in building seven houses and a church.

In November, one year after they landed in America, another ship came from England with 30 newcomers. William Bradford, the first governor, invited about 100 Indians to give thanks to the Lord for His blessings. Then other ships kept coming from England with people who wanted to move to the new world. Initially, they lived in peace with the Indians until some ruffians came from England and created enmity with them.

DEMOCRACY AND BIBLICAL FAITH

There is no religion other than Christianity that teaches about democracy. Judaism teaches theocracy because Jehovah was making the Jews as pillar and ground of truth. Actually, Jehovah was their king. That’s why during 400 years rule of the judges, the Jews did not have a human king because Jehovah was indeed their king. The Creator introduced Himself to the Old Testament people with the name Jehovah, whereas in the New Testament He introduced Himself as Jesus.

However, unbiblical Christianity does not understand the true meaning of democracy. The Catholic Church acted authoritatively for thousands of years. It does not recognize or embrace the democratic system, because this system will make the people think and then challenge it. Another example is the Calvinist. John Calvin became a very authoritative leader when he ruled over Geneva. Whoever tried to challenge him would end up burnt on the stake such as Servetus. Luther who then merged his church with German government would certainly not advise the king of German to release its power and share it with the people. History recorded that there was no initial denomination who truly understood the meaning of democracy other than the Anabaptists since democracy goes hand in hand with the freedom of faith. That’s why neither Catholics, Calvinists, Lutherans, nor Anglicans who forbid anyone to interpret the Bible differently from them truly understand the real meaning of democracy.

After the Anabaptists in America prospered, this new continent became a heaven for all who sought the freedom for faith, until England claimed American continent as

one of its colony and other European kingdoms sought to establish their colony, too. After these conquerors came to America, the Anabaptists once again lost their freedom.

Freedom from the colonization and freedom from religious intimidation drove some of the heroes to fight for America's independence. Patrick Henry, who rode his horse tens of miles in order to appear at the court to defend three Baptist preachers being judged on March 23, 1775 gave a speech which ended with this statement: "Give me liberty or give me death!" His statement burnt the heart of everyone who dreamt on the freedom of religion.

The Episcopal/Anglican Church did not understand the meaning of democracy or the freedom of religion. The same can be said for other reformed churches, especially Catholics. The Anabaptists were the one who truly understood the meaning of freedom of religion and democracy. Because of their efforts, USA now became a democratic country

DEMOCRACY OR CHRISTIANITY?

Because Christian countries, both USA and European countries finally adopted the democratic government system despite the existence of kings and queens as symbols, they became very developed. It was proven that they became very developed technologically and economically because there were healthy competition and high esteem toward meritocracy. The education is so developed that it attracted many immigrants from non Christian countries. They flooded the democratic Christian countries still with insistence on their original faith which was destructive.

With the coming of immigrants from Latin America, who were mostly Catholics, and also with the coming of immigrants from Asia with their various religious backgrounds, the social structure of American people which was characterized by integrity and hospitality became distorted. The increasing number of atheists among Americans made the democratic and free market systems no longer compatible with the composition of American population.

The immigrants coming to America thought that what made USA great were its democratic and free market systems. In reality, those two systems are only compatible with biblical Christians. The people of Latin America, the neighboring countries of USA, can not escape the trap of poverty. It was pointed out by Christianto Wibisono, an Indonesian financial analyst, that the undemocratic system practiced by those countries is the key reason. However, the truth is they can not be democratic because the Christianity there is not biblical.

The democratic system works best if the majority of the population is good. For a simple illustration, let us assume that there are only ten people, eight of them are good, and two are not. In this situation, democracy will bring good result. But if eight of them are bad and two are good, democratic system will be a powerful tool for those bad people to carry out their evil deeds. So, the flooding of African, Middle East, and Asian people to Europe and America bringing their own culture and religions have changed the social structure of European and American people which was based on Christianity.

When I lived in USA, almost every supermarket was attended only by one cashier. If this is implemented in the third World countries, there will be more people who don't pay than those who pay. Electronic and computer store give one month money-back guarantee for any reason. That is, if you don't like what you have purchased,

you can return it in 30 days without being asked why. I have seen people queuing at the department store after Christmas to return or exchange their Christmas gift due to the size, etc. If you offer this kind of guarantee in the third world countries, you'll be out of business in the blink of an eye.

I say it again that democracy and free market systems are only compatible with biblical Christianity with the majority of population are reborn Christians. The increasing number of homosexuals and atheists among Americans, and the coming of immigrants from non Christian countries and unbiblical Christian countries have turned what should be a great system into calamity. Imagine if you have welcomed other people's children to stay at your house and finally find out that they don't have any manners at all. They make your house dirty, speak impolitely, etc, while your own children behave as all good children should. What do you think will be the atmosphere of your family then? It must be chaos!

The market which consisted of honest merchants is now flooded with cunning ones full of trickery. The stocks sold on stock exchange market that should be bought by real investors are now dominated by speculative ones. It was said that the chaos at the Wall Street was caused by short-term selling. Obviously, this was not done by real investors but by speculative ones instead. Reborn Christians should not be accustomed with cunning merchants. When I was just a boy, I often saw that the people in my village put rocks into the rubber that they sold to make it heavier. Now people mix gasoline with paraffin or rice with pebbles, preserve fish or other food not with ice but formalin, add melamine to milk to make it tastier, chop down trees, poison durian trees so all the fruits come down at the same time, catch fish by the aid of bomb or poison. All of these actions will cause long term destruction and should not be in the mind of born-again Christians. If our representatives at the People's Representative Council consist mostly of corruptors than idealists who are willing to go hungry as to defend their principles, any wise man will surely know that such a democratic country will be for the worse.

Thus, what will we say now? What made USA great? Was it its democratic system or biblical Christians? For sure the biblical Christians have caused the society to choose democratic system, and together with Christian values have created the good things in all aspects. Now, after hundreds of years, Satan sends immigrants to USA in order to destroy its well structured society by using the liberty it offers and through Hollywood machine. Satan attacks through education sector so that many professors who are not Christians teach students in the universities established long ago by Christians who truly loved God. US Christian students are not able to influence non Christian immigrants who study there, but become influenced instead so that they are not firm as Christians.

Satan is destroying USA now, a country established by people who truly loved God and a country who send most missionaries to all the earth. Through the late economic crisis, Satan is destroying US economy since this will affect other sectors as well. US citizens experiencing economic difficulty would surely choose a president who offered economic improvement, regardless whether he was Christian or not. One day, they will even elect an individual with other religion if that person can lead to economic prosperity. Will you be surprised if antichrist emerges as the champion of the economy, all the earth will immediately worship him? At that time, he will rule the world and no one can buy or sell without his consent.

--------000----------